Euterpe
Muse of Lyric Poetry

Movement V from Daughters of Olympus for Chamber Nonet

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Program Notes

The Daughters of Olympus suite for chamber nonet was inspired by the mythological nine muses. The nine movements semi-programmatically evoke qualities of the muse for which each one is named. Additionally, each movement possesses at least one theme or motif that is echoed in the other movements. For example, Polyhymnia’s Divine Theme is quoted partially or wholly in each movement.

In Euterpe, muse of lyric poetry, the ensemble simulates a choral ensemble. Beginning with an introspective horn call, quietly growing into a chorale, the mood shifts from peaceful solemnity into an agitated state. Led by the upper voices, an almost primal—but structured—chant arrives: a modal adaptation of Erato’s Love Theme in the horns while a quote of a Delphic Hymn is subtly interwoven contrapuntally on a pizzicato cello. With a swell, the horns and strings smooth the chant’s motion, allowing an introspective attitude to appear again, now more mysteriously. The ecclesiastical song of the woodwinds is grounded by the pizzicato strings, which soon transition into a drone-like passage inspired by Ars Subtilior with the winds introducing a new chant to float upon the drone, reminiscent of the hymn “Tell Me the Story of Jesus.” The emotions build up gradually, sometimes longingly, sometimes contentedly, until Polyhymnia’s Divine Theme is stated as a chorale with the opening horn call used as a compliment to the hymn. The ecclesiastical song and drone chant are used as a descant. Finally, the full choir finds resolution in a firm major tonic chord.
V. Euterpe
Muse of Lyric Poetry
Chant and Chorale

Andante, with Peaceful Solemnity

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭ 1

Clarinet in B♭ 2

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Cello I

Cello II

Double Bass

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Note: This image contains musical notation and does not require text transcription.